

THE ENVIRO-SOURCE

*The Builder's Source for News and Information Concerning Columbia County Stormwater Environmental
Erosion and Sediment Control Issues*



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Special points of interest:

- Columbia County's largest industry is new development.
- Construction sites have a large impact on water quality for our planet.
- Excellent standards and practices keep area top-desired real estate.
- All water eventually leads back to its natural source.

Enviro-Source's Mission:

To have development and government work together, to accept nothing less than excellence, by maintaining the water quality, safety, and prosperity of our citizens at the high standard we are most fortunate to have in our area.

THE RIVER IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

The Enviro-Source newsletter is published to comply with the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit. It offers builders throughout the County some insight on water quality and associated regulations.

The largest industry in the County is new development, both commercial and residential. This development has the potential to impact the water quality of our creeks and streams with issues related to new construction. Topics covered include information on Best Manage-



ment Practices, tips to pass a Notice of Termination inspection, and an overview of the erosion and

sediment control certification program. Our contact information is on page 4.

"A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND ARTICLES"

WATER QUALITY IS DAMAGED WHEN BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ARE NOT FOLLOWED

TIPS FOR BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



Georgia weather is often unpredictable, but one thing you can rely on is getting some rain during the course of a project. Best Management Practices (BMPs) should be installed prior to grading and maintained on a regular basis.

(More specific tips on Page 3)

Pictures used in this newsletter are not necessarily from Columbia County, they are for illustrative purposes only.



Keep the fish abundant.
We're in!
Are you?

**DID YOU
KNOW...**

Storm drains flow **directly** to our waterways.

Sweeping grass clippings, leaves, or dirt onto sidewalks and streets may cause the storm sewers to clog and can be considered littering.

If debris makes it to our natural water resources it may kill or harm the aquatic life.



Please Remember:
Bag up grass and leaves and dispose of them properly.

-Thank You-



Temporary seeding and/or mulch cost a fraction of the time, energy, and money vs. the amount of those resources needed to continuously remove sediment from BMPs.



THE ABCS OF PASSING AN NOT INSPECTION

Notice of Termination (NOT) requirements:

According to the Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia's Sixth Edition (Green Book), final stabilization means that all soil disturbing activities at the site have been completed, and that for unpaved areas not covered by permanent structures, 100% of the soil surface is uniformly covered in permanent vegetation with a density of at least 70%, or the site has been landscaped according to the approved landscape plan.

Common Q&A:

How do I schedule an NOT inspection?

Provide the County with an EPD-stamped NOT form or NOT form with certified mail receipt of your NOT submission to EPD. NOT inspections are scheduled in the Stormwater Utility main office for the following business day.

How do I schedule an NOT re-inspection?

If your initial NOT inspection failed call the Stormwater Utility main office, 706-855-7246, to request an NOT re-inspection.

Do pine straw or mulch beds count as permanent stabilization?

No. Pine straw and mulch are considered temporary stabilization and therefore require trees, shrubs, or perennial vines planted throughout.

Please see the Green Book's Table 6-5.3 for ground cover recommendations.

Do I have to remove silt fence?

Yes. All temporary BMPs (silt fence, hay bales, compost socks, construction entrances, temporary down drain structures, etc.) must be removed before final stabilization can be achieved.



Permanent vegetation needed



Passing NOT

For Your Consideration...

Structural measures help control sediment; vegetative measures help control erosion.

At the beginning of the project, in order to reduce runoff and erosion issues down the road, consider planting temporary vegetation or applying mulch to disturbed areas. Temporary seeding is inex-

pensive and can save you significant maintenance costs and possible environmental violations. Plus, according to the 6th Edition Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia, temporary grassing or mulch shall be applied to all exposed areas within 14 days of disturbance.

Do the environment a favor and implement vegetative measures!



This site would have benefited from vegetative cover to reduce erosion and subsequent off-site sedimentation.

TIPS FOR BMPs CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Keeping up with these requirements will help avoid common violations:

**Silt fence cannot be installed in areas of concentrated flow.*

**Sediment shall be removed from sediment barriers once it has accumulated to one-half the original height of the barrier.*

**Sediment shall be removed from temporary sediment basins when it has accumulated to one-third of the storage volume.*

**Construction exits shall be at least 20 feet wide. Lengths shall be 50 feet OR within 2-ft of the structure being built.*

**Construction exit stone shall be between 1.5-3.5 inches and underlain with geotextile fabric.*

For all specifics please see the Green Book!



Reminder: Regular BMP maintenance prevents violations and environmental impacts!

How do I find the Green Book online?

Follow these steps:

Go to <https://gaswcc.georgia.gov/>

Then drill down...



**Click on Urban Lands—
Erosion and Sediment Control**



Technical Guidance



Scroll to Sixth Edition Link



Chapter 6

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

Low Impact Development (LID) is a stormwater management approach that works with nature to deal with runoff closer to its source. This is accomplished through a variety of techniques; the most common including rain gardens, bio-retention facilities, vegetated swales, and permeable

pavements. These structures and other LID techniques create practical and visually-appealing drainage that generate less runoff from developed areas and find beneficial uses for stormwater instead of treating it like a waste product. LID methods also improve water quality. In addition, in-

part because LID reduces the amount of below-ground infrastructure, it costs less to install and maintain, making this an economical option!



MEET OUR EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL INSPECTION TEAM

County E&S Inspectors spend each day inspecting subdivision, commercial, and individual lot construction sites for compliance with applicable site-specific Erosion and Sediment Control Plans, site-specific State Water Plans, and Georgia's Manual for Erosion and Sediment

Control, Sixth Edition. These inspectors work diligently to prevent impacts to our natural resources and keep roadways safe and clear of construction-related debris.



Back Row—Phillip Bourdo, Jason Alicea, Dennis Anderson, Will Fulmer, Gary Bennett. Front Row—Mike Anderson, Steve Abbott

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Issues"*

We're on the Web!

www.columbiacountyga.gov
Stormwater Utility

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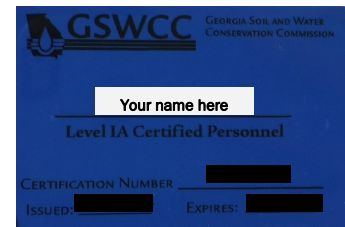
*Drains directly to waterways-
that is why our motto is:
Only Rain Down The
Drain!*

GSWCC Level 1-A Certification

The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission offers a Fundamentals 1A seminar for builders, developers, site superintendents, contractors, grading and utility contractors, and monitoring consultants on the proper installation, maintenance, and inspection of BMPs on construction sites.

Furthermore, completion of this course is one of the best ways to become a "certified personnel". The Georgia Department of Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Notice of Intent requires site inspections be completed by certified personnel.

*This class is strongly recommended by
Georgia EPD and Columbia County.*

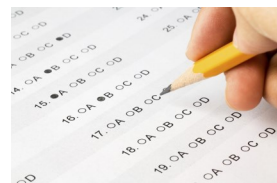


More on the certification process can be found below.

Erosion and Sediment Control Certification Is Ongoing



In 2003, the Georgia Legislature passed HB285, which amended the Georgia Erosion and Sediment Control Act of 1975. The Bill charged the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission with administering an erosion and sedimentation control education and certification process.



There are three levels of certification:

- Level 1A is for builders, contractors, developers, site superintendents, utility contractors, grading contractors, and monitoring consultants.
- Level 1B is for regulatory and non-regulatory inspectors.
- Level 2 is for plan designers and plan reviewers.

For each level, an individual seeking certification must attend a required training class and pass an examination. There are several organizations throughout the state teaching the classes and administering the certification exams. For more information about certification, visit the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission's website at <http://gaswcc.georgia.gov>